CHAPTER 3

TRANSLATION [illegible] CLEANING [illegible] MYCOL

TYPESETTING [illegible] PROOFREADING ALAN S. [illegible]

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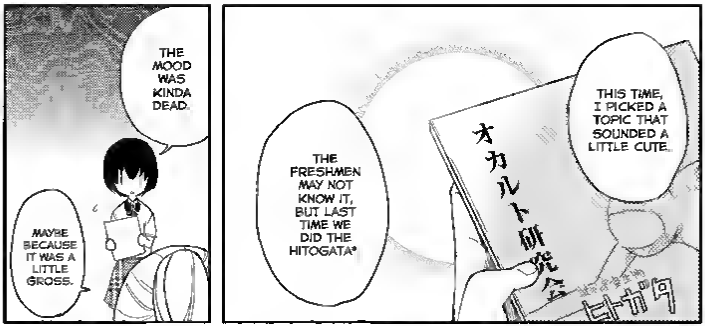
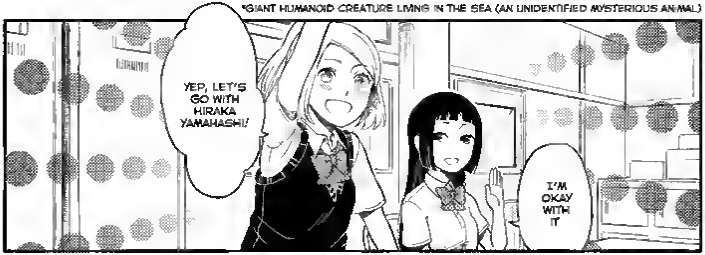
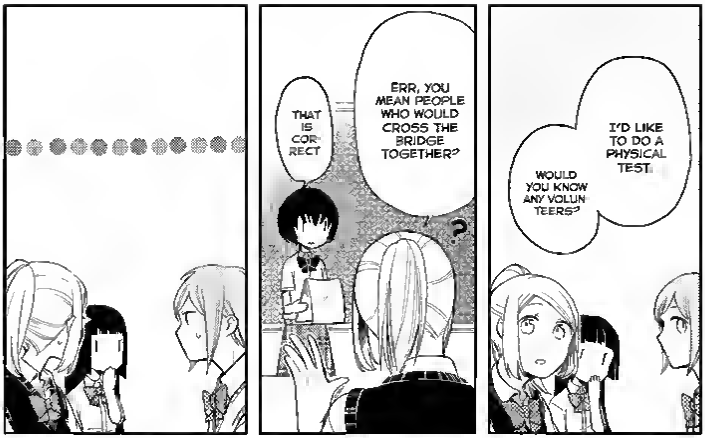

THE MOOD WAS KINDA DEAD.
MAYBE BECAUSE IT WAS A LITTLE GROSS.
THIS TIME, I PICKED A TOPIC THAT SOUNDED A LITTLE CUTE.
THE FRESHMEN MAY NOT KNOW IT, BUT LAST TIME WE DID THE HITOGATA*
オカルト研究会
ヒトガタ

*GIANT HUMANOID CREATURE LIVING IN THE SEA (AN UNIDENTIFIED MYSTERIOUS ANIMAL)



WHAT? YOU CAN'T DO IT DURING THE DAY?!
YOU MEAN, THIS STORY WHERE YOU HAVE TO CROSS THE BRIDGE AFTER SUNSET, RIGHT?
YES, ON TWILIGHT
I don't know!!

EH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, UME?
SO?
OH, SO IT'S QUITE FAMOUS, ACTUALLY
OH WELL NO MATTER
IF YOU SAY SO, THEN IT'S DECIDED
YOU'RE MUMBLING
It's unlike you
NOT REALLY
NOT BAD
YEAH
OH..
SO, I WAS THINKING...


WOULD YOU KNOW ANY VOLUNTEERS?
I'D LIKE TO DO A PHYSICAL TEST.
ERR, YOU MEAN PEOPLE WHO WOULD CROSS THE BRIDGE TOGETHER?
THAT IS CORRECT

NO VOLUNTEERS, HUH
HMM.
SAY HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA STAY?
YOU CAN LEAVE AHEAD

I'm not gonna read them!!
WAIT A MINUTE, UME!!
HEY, YOU TOLD ME TO LEAVE AHEAD, SO I DO!
I'M NOT GIVING OCCULT STUFF MORE THAN AN HOUR A DAY!
ぴぱぱ
Come on
BUT IT'S MY MISSION TO COMPLETE THIS ISSUE!
Give them back
IF NO ONE'S GONNA TRY IT OUT, THEN I MUST FIND SOMETHING ELSE!
YOU CAN DO THAT TOMORROW!
WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE IS THAT, ANYWAY?!
IF ONE STUPID CHARM WAS ENOUGH TO GAIN ETERNITY,
NO ONE WOULD EVER BE TROUBLED!

AND YOU, ARE YOU TROUBLED?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT?
WHY? IS IT TOO "GIRLY" FOR YOU?
I CAN SAY IT BECAUSE I ALREADY TRIED
OH...!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU ALREADY HAD A SOULMATE!
You already
tried..

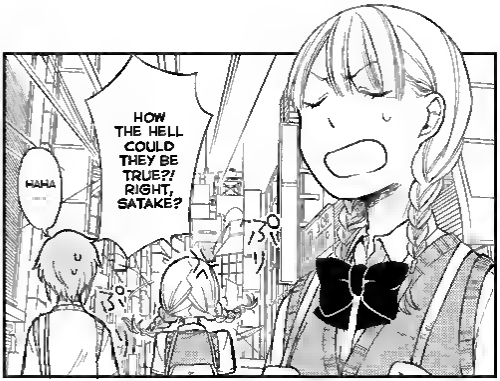
.....
WE'VE BEEN HANGING OUT FOR 10 YEARS, BUT YOU'RE STILL THE BIGGEST OCCULT MYSTERY
YEAH, YEAH, SHUT UP
SENPAI
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
IT WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED HER TO TELL ME WHO IT WAS.
SERI-OUSLY
GU

SATAKE?
WHAT'S UP?
PRESIDENT
IT'S ABOUT OUR NEWSPAPER
Good luck, Satake!!!
COULD YOU LET ME...
TRY OUT THIS CHARM?
YOU?
PERFECT! YOU'RE A LIFESAVER!

HEY THERE
IT'S FINE.
UMESAWA-SENPAI
IF YOU ACCEPT, I WOULD LIKE TO CROSS THE BRIDGE WITH YOU
SO...
WHO DO YOU WANT TO DO IT WITH?

WELL THEN, I'M O...
WOW, THERE...
SORRY, IT MAY BE A BIT SUDDEN
YOU DON'T NEED TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY.
SATA-KE...
WHY UME?
DOES THAT MEAN THAT...
YOU KNOW...
THAT'S RIGHT

UME, YOU SHOULD WALK WITH HER TO THE STATION
WHAT?!
THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH, I'D SAY, BUT...
LIVING ETERNALLY BY UME'S SIDE...
I SEE
OH.
YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT LIGHTLY.
SURELY, YOU MUST HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT
SAYO?
IF THE RUMOURS ARE TRUE, YOU'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER, RIGHT?
IS THAT ALRIGHT?
WELL, THAT IS...
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO "REDO" IT, OF COURSE

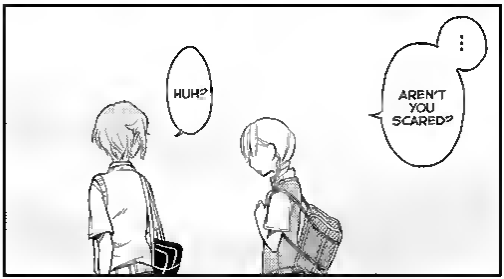

HOW THE HELL COULD THEY BE TRUE?! RIGHT, SATAKE?
HAHA

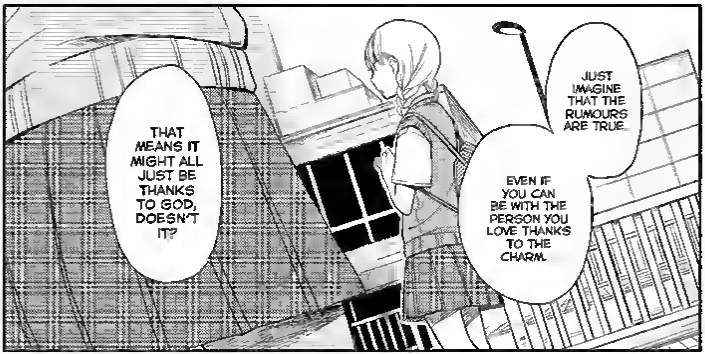
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT AT ALL, DO YOU?
NOT ONE BIT
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU BELIEVE IN ALL THAT?

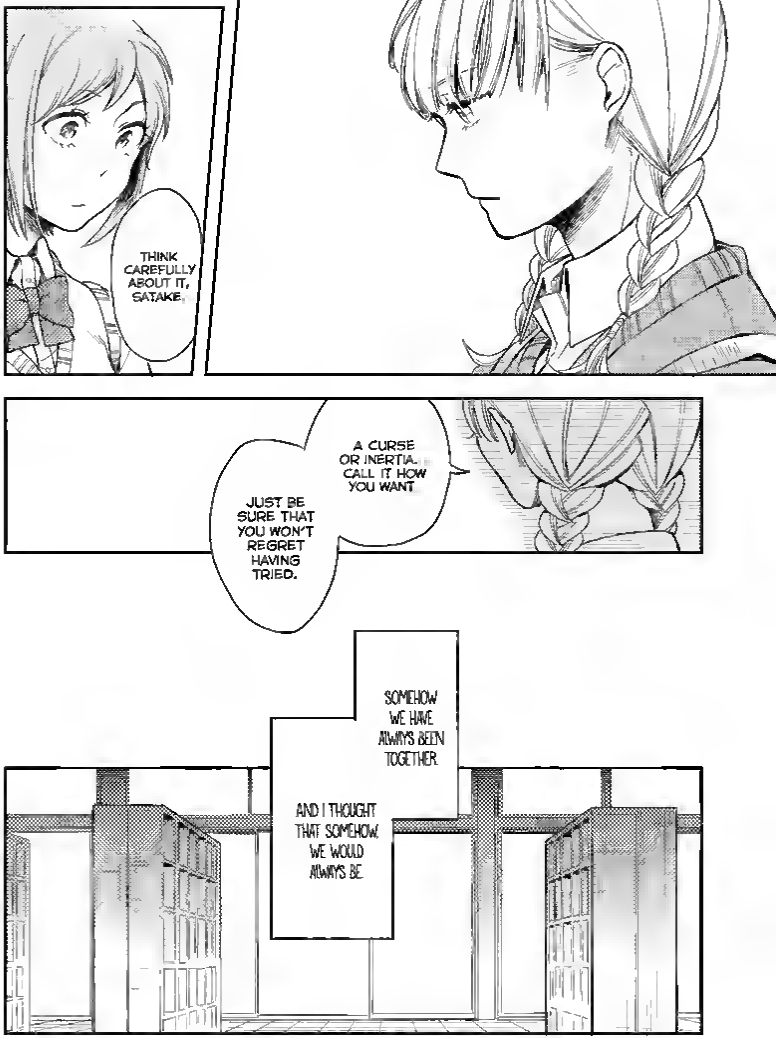
RUMOURS OR NOT, I DON'T REALLY CARE THAT MUCH.
I JUST KNOW ONE THING...
HMM.

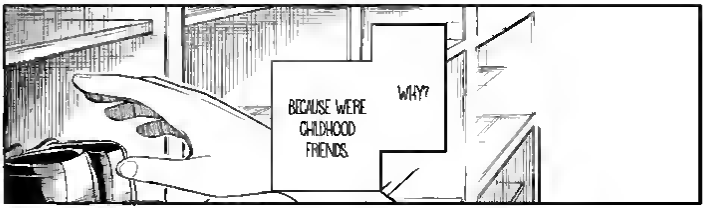
IF THE RUMOURS ARE TRUE?

AS LONG AS THE TIME SPENT WITH YOU IS REAL
I DON'T MIND AT ALL


HUH?
AREN'T YOU SCARED?


THAT MEANS IT MIGHT ALL JUST BE THANKS TO GOD, DOESN'T IT?
EVEN IF YOU CAN BE WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE THANKS TO THE CHARM.
JUST IMAGINE THAT THE RUMOURS ARE TRUE...


THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT IT, SATAKE.
A CURSE OR INERTIA. CALL IT HOW YOU WANT
JUST BE SURE THAT YOU WON'T REGRET HAVING TRIED.
SOMEHOW WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER.
AND I THOUGHT THAT SOMEHOW WE WOULD ALWAYS BE

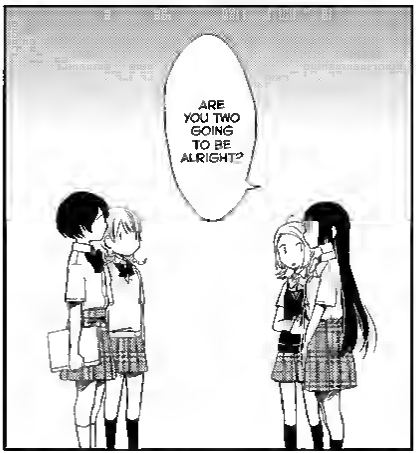

WHY?
BECAUSE WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.

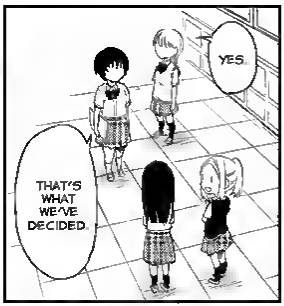
I CAN BEAR THAT MUCH
WE'VE SIMPLY SPENT TOO MUCH TIME TOGETHER

IF UME AND SATAKE DO FULFILL THE CHARM,
AND BECOME ETERNALLY BOUND ..
Our newspaper will surely sell like crazy.
Ume will have found someone she cherishes, and who cherishes her.
I can only see positive outcomes. How wonderful.
And our club might become a real club, not just a small amateur circle.

BADUMP
MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT
UME DID SAY THAT SHE HAD TRIED THE CHARM IN THE PAST
...BUT WITH WHOM?
THERE'S A SIDE OF HER THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT
THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, ANYWAY.

...I THINK I'D BETTER DISTANCE MYSELF FROM HER.
OOH!
SO THEY'RE GONNA DO IT ON SATURDAY?!


ARE YOU TWO GOING TO BE ALRIGHT?


YES.
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE DECIDED.

ARE JUST "VITRIOLIC FRIENDS".
THAT'S NOT EVEN AN ISSUE.
UME AND I...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH, YOU MEANT THAT?
WILL THE POSITION OF VENUS AND OTHER FACTORS NOT BE PROBLE-MATIC?
HOW-EVER
I KNOW THAT, YES.
.....
There's no mis-take.
Here, look.

AS LONG AS KISARAGI IS THERE, WE CAN LEAVE THE CLUB WITH OUR MIND IN PEACE

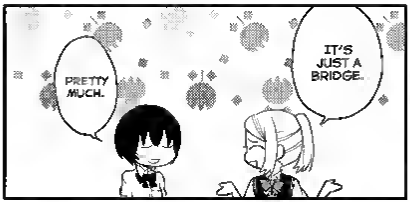
RIGHT, UME?

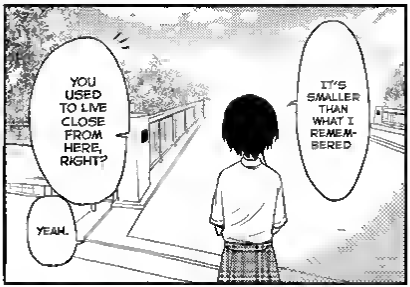
We're best enemies bound by a curse
Huh?
I do have other friends, right?
Yeah.
OH WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE UME IS MY ONLY FRIEND OR ANYTHING.

DID SHE GO TO SATAKE?

UNTIL NOW, WHAT
DID WE DO
WRONG
HUH?
WHY THE HELL AM I SO SAD?

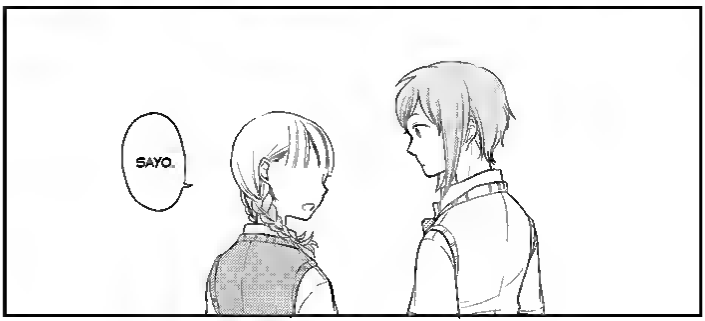
SO THIS IS HIRAKA YAMA-KASHI.

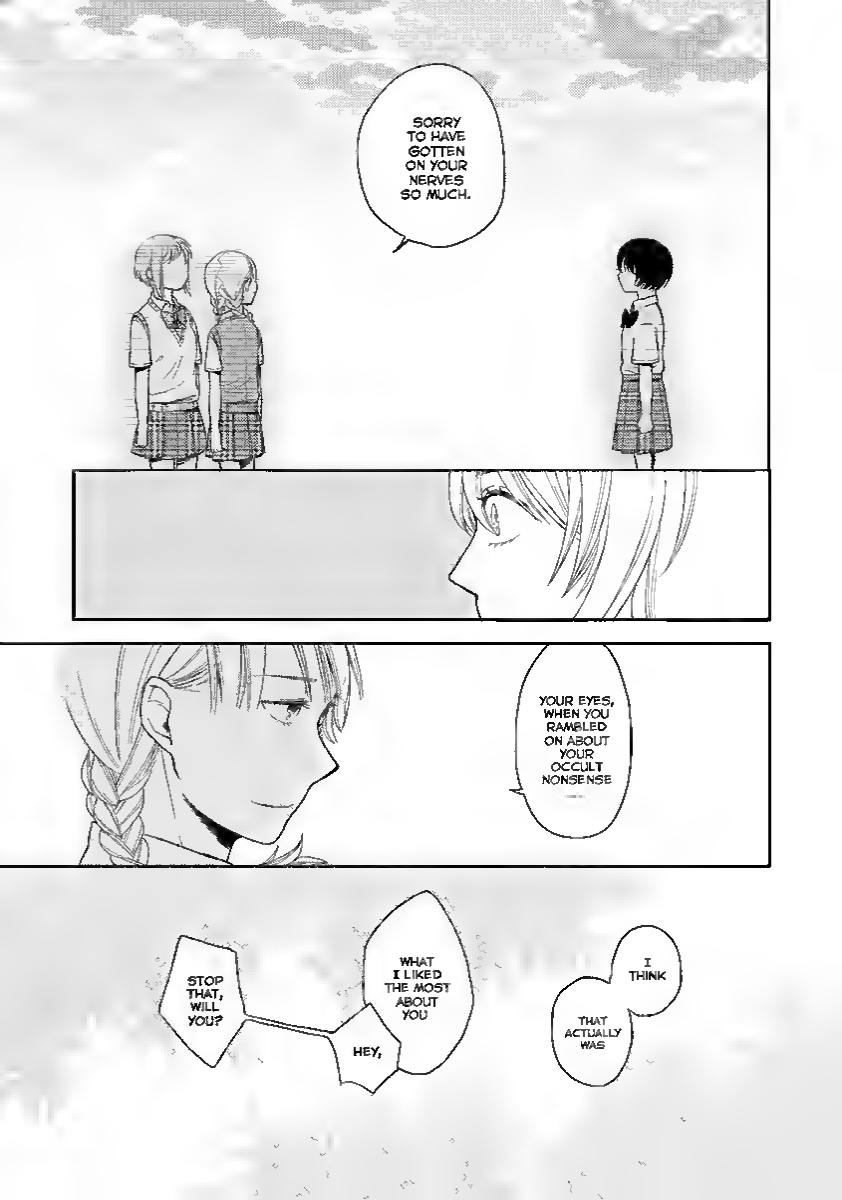

IT'S JUST A BRIDGE.
PRETTY MUCH.


IT'S SMALLER THAN WHAT I REMEM-BERED
YOU USED TO LIVE CLOSE FROM HERE, RIGHT?
YEAH.

I USED TO CROSS IT PRETTY OFTEN, I THINK.
YUKARI, PRESI-DENT!
Oh!

EVERY-
THING IS
READY.


SAYO.


SORRY TO HAVE GOTTEN ON YOUR NERVES SO MUCH.
YOUR EYES, WHEN YOU RAMBLED ON ABOUT YOUR OCCULT NONSENSE
I THINK
THAT ACTUALLY WAS
WHAT I LIKED THE MOST ABOUT YOU
HEY,
STOP THAT, WILL YOU?

STOP TALKING AS IF IT WAS A FAREWELL.
DO YOU REALLY THINK...
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS GONNA CHANGE BECAUSE OF SOME CHARM?
IT IS GONNA CHANGE.
THERE ARE THINGS I'...

EH?!
SAY THAT THERE ARE GHOSTS AROUND HERE
THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS
THAT CAN CHANGE WITH A SINGLE WORD.
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME.
Don't get excited.
Let's look for them. come on!
WHAT KIND OF GHOSTS ?!
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S SCARY.

I'M WITH YOU, SEE?
IF WE HOLD HANDS, IT'S NOT SCARY AT ALL.
YEAH...
THANKS FOR STAYING WITH ME, AS PROMISED.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF ANYMORE...
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LITTLE, YOU KNOW?
Inertia...
A charm?
Childhood friends...
Curse...
I HAD STOPPED SEEING IT BECAUSE WE WERE TOO CLOSE,
BUT WE WERE TOGETHER BECAUSE WE NEEDED TO BE.
I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT I FEEL TOWARDS YOU
HAS THE SAME WEIGHT AS WHAT SATAKE FEELS...

Wether it's a curse or inertia...
If, one day, we have to sever all of our ties...
IT SUITS YOU WELL TO SAY THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!
FORGIVE ME,
BUT IF I'M NOT A BOTHER TO YOU...

Then I pray the Lord for that day to be far away from now!
PLEASE GIVE ME A LITLE MORE OF YOUR FREEDOM.

サイダーと泣き虫。

Cider and Crybaby